



News Release

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Nantou Exchange Students Visiting West Valley City Hit Salt Lake Valley with a July 24th Bang!

West Valley City – Just two days into their West Valley City visit, 11 Nantou, Taiwan exchange students will accompany the city's "Days of '47" parade float on July 24 in downtown Salt Lake City. This is sure to be an early highlight of their many new experiences during their four-week exchange.

In June, the Sister City Committee of West Valley City sent a delegation of students from the Wasatch Front to live in the homes of the Nantou students for a month of social, cultural, and educational experiences. Those students' families, as well as other volunteer families, will host the Nantou students in their homes July 22 through August 18. This student-exchange program began through the West Valley City Sister City Committee in 2000, under the leadership of Mayor Gearld L. (Jerry) Wright, who accompanied the first group of West Valley City students to Nantou, along with a delegation of City Council and Sister City Committee members.

Don Christensen, a West Valley City Councilman and Sister City Committee member, who has accompanied a group of West Valley City exchange students in the past, says these exchanges "allow a rich transfer of culture and language," and, he adds, "long-term friendships develop from such visits, and continued relationships allow for the sharing of knowledge that can improve community decision-making."

West Valley City and its Sister City Committee are providing many activities throughout the four weeks that the Nantou students are here including English language classes, visits to local cultural, educational, and historical sites and participation in various community events.

According to West Valley City Mayor Mike Winder, "These long-distance ties are valuable in many ways. In an increasingly global world, it is important that our community has opportunities to benefit from international interactions," he said, "whether they be student exchanges, cultural exchanges, or business relationships."

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